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Travel Ban Loopholes Plugged by House Unit

United Press International

The House Judiciary Committee approved legislation yesterday designed to plug legal loopholes that have permitted some U.S. citizens to travel to Red China or Cuba without penalty.

The bill aroused some opposition within the committee and Reps. Jacob Gilbert (D-N.Y.) and Robert Kastenmeier (D-Wis.) announced their intention to fight it.

At present, U.S. passports are not valid for travel directly to certain countries such as China and Cuba under presidential order. But "student" groups in past years have circumvented the regulations by going to Mexico or a European country from the United States and then getting visas for travel to Cuba.

The bill would make it unlawful, subject to a year in prison, $1000 fine or both to take either a direct or roundabout trip to a proscribed country.